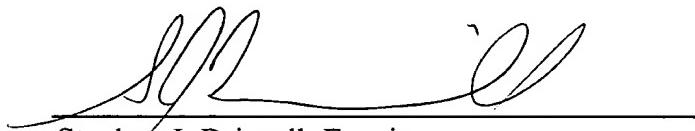


Remarks

This reply is intended to supplement the response filed on November 3, 2003. Specifically, pursuant to the Examiner's request Claims 8 through 23 have been renumbered to Claims 7 through 24 and are now presented in ascending numerical order. Furthermore, Claims 20 through 23 (now Claims 21 through 24) have been withdrawn. Applicants hereby incorporate into this reply the remarks made in their November 3, 2003 reply.

In light of the above, an early and favorable response is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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